

of Germany by Britain and the Dominions will benefit the people. It is a cheap lie that we are fighting for democracy.'"

That was in May 1941. There is a little bit more than that:

"The fight lies in Canada! Against our own reactionaries, who have gagged the workers' organizations, crushed their free press, interned and jailed their courageous leaders; against the corrupt financiers and industrialists who are using the opportunity the war affords them to fasten a Canadian fascist regime on the necks of the masses."

Do you still believe, Mr. Cohen, that it would be a big help to Canada in view of that manifesto?

MR. COHEN: Yes. First of all, I do not know whether there is such a manifesto. All I know is that a particular extract is being read to me. I said yesterday that if there is such a manifesto I should like to have an opportunity of seeing it. There is no state secret or state safety involved in that being kept under cover. I should like to see the document. That is not an unfair request. Secondly, assuming that that was the position of the Communist Party in Canada in May 1941, I assert most conscientiously that, did I not believe it I would not be here, that the weight, influence, ability and energy of the communists and of the Communist Party of Canada is crucial, I would say, to a complete war effort; and in the light of each one of the questions presented to me by Mr. Slaght I shall deal with them as I come to them. That is my first premise. I cannot speak more completely than that.

MR. MacINNIS: May I make an observation. It seems to me that had not the attitude of the Communist Party toward the war changed there is very little likelihood that Mr. Cohen would be here today at all in the position he is in today.